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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 37 OCTOBER 2, 2006

Day laborers fight for right to work

Sue N.Y. town for closing public hiring sites



AP/Jeff Zelevansky

Day laborers wait for work August 17 in Mamaroneck, New York. The trial to hear charges filed by workers there against cop harassment opened September 11.

BY RÓGER CALERO

MAMARONECK, New York, September 20—A federal lawsuit filed by day laborers in April against the village of Mamaroneck in Westchester County—23 miles north of New York City—has become a focus of the struggle for legalization of immigrants, and the fight for the right of day laborers to seek jobs in public places.

The lawsuit accuses town officials and police of harassing and discriminating against the overwhelmingly Latino workers through a deliberate campaign to drive them off the streets.

On September 11, the first day of the trial, four workers named in the lawsuit, local contractors, and other witnesses testified about harassment that day laborers and contractors are subjected to by town cops posted at street corners where workers gather to wait for jobs.

The four plaintiffs are being allowed to remain anonymous during the trial, identified only as "John Does," because of fear of retaliation from immigration authorities.

"Every day, the same racist cop on a bicycle comes to the corner where we

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Washington tightens economic squeeze on Iran

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The U.S. government is tightening the imperialist economic squeeze on Iran while increasing threats of military action should Tehran not back down from its nuclear power program.

The Iranian government did not meet an August 31 United Nations Security Council deadline to cease uranium enrichment, a process necessary for production of nuclear fuel for energy purposes. Processed at higher grades, enriched uranium could also be used for fueling atomic bombs. Tehran argues its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, to meet its growing energy needs, and it insists it has a sovereign right to determine its own energy policy.

Washington charges the program is secretly aimed at building nuclear weapons.

U.S. treasury secretary Henry Paulson, meeting on September 16 with World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials in Singapore, urged them to cease all banking transactions with Iran. Paulson alleged Tehran was sending money to "terrorist" organizations through European and other financial institutions. He also proposed severing

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Brazilian gov't forces Bolivia to suspend measure on gas nationalization

BY RÓGER CALERO

The government of Bolivia headed by President Evo Morales announced September 14 it was backing away from a takeover of the Bolivian operations of Petrobras, Brazil's state oil company.

The decision to suspend the takeover, which would have brought under state control the only two oil refineries in Bolivia, came after Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva deemed the measure "unacceptable." Lula's social democratic government threatened to take harsher measures against Bolivia if its authorities persisted with "unilateral attitudes."

"We can think of doing harsher things with Bolivia," da Silva said, according to the Associated Press.

The Bolivian government issued a decree last May nationalizing the country's natural gas and oil industry. Acting on that law, Bolivia's minister of hydrocarbons announced September 12 that the country's state-run oil company, known by its Spanish acronym YPFB, would take over the operation

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Warehouse workers strike to defend union in New Zealand

BY PATRICK BROWN AND TERRY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Heading into the fourth week of a nationwide labor fight, 500 warehouse workers locked out by retail giant Progressive Enterprises had amassed solidarity from unions around the country, as well as in Australia and the United States.

On September 16—day 21 of the dispute—70 unionists and supporters rallied in the south Auckland suburb of Otara to hear speeches in Samoan and Tongan before fanning out to collect donations for their strike fund. Union contributions and street collections have swelled the fund to $200,000.

The contract fight escalated August 28 when the owners of Progressive Enterprises locked out 400 members of the National Distribution Union (NDU) and 100 members of the Engineers Union in Auckland, Palmerston North, and Christchurch. The lockout followed a 48-hour strike by these workers.

The company initially refused to discuss the workers' demands for a national contract and equalization of wages and allowances in the three cities. The press reports that the latest round of talks, held September 19–20, has produced

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Door-to-door, on job, workers buy 'Militant' subs

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Subscriptions to the *Militant* keep rolling in. By the end of the first week of the two-month fall subscription drive, nearly 600 people subscribed, including about 120 who renewed or bought new long-term subscriptions. Many of the new or repeat readers come from work by supporters of the paper on the job, at plant gates, and in the Black community. Here are a few examples.

"In Chicago, Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters campaigned at a meatpacking plant where there is a United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) organizing drive,"

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Imperialist 'peacekeeping' force in southern Lebanon nears 5,000

BY PAUL PEDERSON

With the arrival of 500 Spanish soldiers and an additional 200 French troops by September 15, the imperialist military force in southern Lebanon under the United Nations flag reached 4,600.

That growing force, along with thousands of Lebanese troops, is charged under the August 11 UN-brokered cease-fire agreement that ended the Israeli assault on Lebanon, with protecting Israel's northern border and preventing Hezbollah from rebuilding its military infrastructure in the area.

A number of voices in the big-business press are now praising the outcome of Israel's monthlong war.

In an opinion piece in the September 13 *New York Times*, columnist Thomas Friedman said the UN military force policing southern Lebanon presents "a new model for peacemaking."

Friedman called the model "land for NATO"—describing the UN-run force in Lebanon as "UN on the outside but

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A worker's dollar for the workers' press

Give to Militant Fund

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

In the first week of the $90,000 *Militant* fund drive, supporters of the paper sent in $3,757. The priority now is to organize regular collections, totaling $12,500 a week for the remaining seven weeks of the campaign. This is needed to reach the goal by November 7, and to do it in such a way that allows the *Militant* to keep paying its bills—printing, shipping, utilities, and reporting costs.

The *Militant's* character as a revolutionary workers' paper financed by its readers draws on a proud tradition. V.I.

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Also Inside:

Eight U.S. troops court-martialed for rapes and murders in Iraq

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Military investigators have recommended the court martial of eight U.S. troops in two separate cases of mistreatment of Iraqis. The charges involve rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and the killing of her family members in one case, and murder of detainees in the other. In the latter case the investigator recommended four soldiers face the death penalty if convicted, according to Reuters.

Steven Green, a former soldier who has been discharged from the military for a "personality disorder," faces the same charges in a U.S. federal court for the same attack on the young girl's family.

According to military prosecutors, Green killed Abeer Qasim Hamza al-Janabi's father, mother, and six-year-old sister in Mahmudiya, near Baghdad. He then raped and killed the girl, and tried to burn the bodies and house to cover up the crime. It is the fifth case currently being investigated in which U.S. troops have been charged with serious crimes. Green and three codefendants could also face the death penalty, Reuters said.

Eight Marines from Kilo Company's Second Platoon have been charged with the death of an Iraqi, Hashim Ibrahim Awad. Six Marines from the same platoon have been charged with assault in a separate incident.

Awad was dragged from his home and shot without provocation during a raid on another house in search of an alleged insurgent. After finding the house empty the soldiers went next door and dragged out Awad, court documents said.

After shooting Awad the soldiers placed an AK-47 and a shovel near the body to make it look as though he was planting a roadside bomb.

Private First Class (Pfc) Corey Clagett, Specialist William Hunsaker, Staff Sergeant Raymond Girouard, and Specialist Juston Graber of the 101 Airborne Division have been charged with murdering prisoners captured during a May 9 raid on a suspected "insurgent" camp near Tikrit, in northern Iraq. The soldiers have said they were given orders to kill every military-age male in the camp.

All but Graber are also charged with obstruction of justice for allegedly threatening to kill another soldier if he said anything about the killings. Pfc. Bradley Mason testified at a military hearing in Tikrit that Girouard made the threat the day after the killings.

Mason also testified that on the day of the raid Girouard told his squad that Clagett and Hunsaker were going to kill three detainees who had been handcuffed with plastic ties. Mason said shortly afterward he heard gunfire and the three detainees were dead. Clagett told him that two of the men had broken out of their cuffs.

Evidence gathered after 24 Iraqis were killed in Haditha last November contradict the initial story released by the Marines that the deaths were the result of a bomb, reported *USA Today.*

The day after the killings the Marines released a statement that said 15 Iraqis were killed from the blast of a roadside bomb. It claimed that immediately afterwards their convoy came under attack and that eight insurgents were killed in response.

But death certificates showed that all 24 Iraqis had been killed by gunshot, contradicting the Marines' claims.

David Passaro, a former CIA contractor, was convicted of assault August 18 for beating Abdul Wali during questioning about a rocket attack on a base in Afghanistan, reported AP. Wali later died, but Passaro is not charged with his death.

During the interrogations, Passaro is said to have beaten Wali and kicked him twice in the groin. In defending Passaro during the trial, Dr. Donald Jason said the bruises on Wali's back were probably caused by blood settling there after his death. The two kicks to Wali's groin could have caused his death, another medical expert said. Despite this Jason claimed, "From what I see, I don't see anything that would have involved extreme physical pain." Passaro could be sentenced up to 11 years.



Getty Images

An Iraqi woman shows a picture of relatives killed during a 2005 raid by U.S. Marines in Haditha, Iraq.

Immigration expanding in U.S.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The pace of immigration into the United States over the past five years is on the rise in virtually every state, according to statistics released in mid-August from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey.

Immigrants make up a growing portion of the population in 46 states and the District of Columbia. There are currently more than 35 million immigrants in the United States, comprising 12.4 percent of the population. That's an increase from 11.1 percent in 2001.

Jeff Passel, a research associate at the Pew Hispanic Center told the *New York Times* that the report's findings are part of "a pattern that we first began to see 10 or 15 years ago. But instead of being confined to areas like the Southeast, it's beginning to spill over into some Midwestern states, like Indiana and Ohio. It's even moving up into New England."

While the largest number of immigrants live in California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois, they are settling in many other states throughout the country. Indiana, for example, saw a 34 percent increase; South Dakota, 44 percent; Delaware, 32 percent; Missouri, 31 percent; Colorado, 28 percent; and New Hampshire, 26 percent. South Carolina's immigrant population has grown by 47 percent since 2000, more than any other state. The number of Hispanics living in Arkansas increased by 48 percent.

According to the survey, immigrants in U.S. households rose 16 percent over the past five years, with the largest proportion of new arrivals coming from Mexico. In 2005, nearly 11 million immigrants living in the United States were born in Mexico—a 21 percent increase from five years earlier. By way of comparison, nearly 1.8 million were born in China and 1.4 million in India.

"It's a continuation of the Mexicanization of U.S. immigration," Steven Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies, told the *Times* in describing the newly released figures. "You would expect Mexicans to be increasing their share in places like Georgia and North Carolina, which already saw some increases, but they've also increased their share of the population, and quite dramatically, in states like Michigan, Delaware, and Montana."

Out of the U.S. population of nearly 300 million, the census reports that some 52 million speak a language other than English. From 1990 to 2000 the foreign-born population in the United States rose to 31.1 million from 18.8 million. This "blazing pace of immigration," noted the *Times,* continues into the first half of the current decade.

Correction

The article on the San Francisco Chinatown event promoting the book *Our History Is Still Being Written* in last week's issue incorrectly identified Jim Hirabayashi as former chair of the Ethnic Studies program at the University of California in Berkeley. He was head of this program at San Francisco State University.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Canadian gov't sends tanks, more troops to Afghanistan

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—Ottawa has announced it is sending a squadron of 15 Leopard tanks and at least 200 more soldiers to Afghanistan. The troop increase will bring the total number of Canadian soldiers fighting in southern Afghanistan to 2,500. Lt. Gen. Andrew Leslie, the head of the army, said this will be the first time Canadian tanks have been sent into combat since the Korean War. The Canadian government in 1999 had sent tanks to the NATO "peacekeeping mission" in Kosova.

According to Gen. Richard Hillier, Canada's Chief of Defense Staff, the tank squadron and soldiers needed to run them will allow Canadian soldiers to "reach out and touch" the enemy.

"I think those are very good enhancements," said Hillier. "I think they are going to do wonders for the morale of the troops in theatre and let them know that this country, right to and inclusive of our Prime Minister, supports them in what they do."

Up to 150 of the troops will come from Valcartier, Quebec. Polls show that support for Ottawa's intervention in Afghanistan is weakest in Quebec.

Hellier said the troop increase is not a direct response to NATO's call for reinforcements but a reassessment of what Ottawa needs in response to new weapons such as mortar fire used by the Taliban, the Islamist party that ruled the country until it was toppled in 2001 by the U.S.-led imperialist invasion. Thirty-six Canadian troops and one diplomat have been killed in combat in Afghanistan, most of them this year.

Liberal party defense critic Ujjal Dosanjh said he supports the increase but is concerned that the tanks will not help to win the "hearts and minds" of the Afghan people.

The New Democratic Party, which has called for withdrawal of combat troops by February 2007, complained that Ottawa should be centering its intervention on "reconstruction."



AP/Les Perreaux

Canadian troops in Afghanistan Sept. 8.

"Ottawa's military operation is part of imperialism's efforts under the guise of the 'war on terror' to install a stable pro-imperialist government in Kabul," said Joseph Young, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Toronto. "Our campaign calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Canadian and all other imperialist and allied military forces from Afghanistan."

On September 18, Gen. James Jones, the U.S. general who is NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, announced the Canadian-led troops had successfully completed Operation Medusa, the two-week-long offensive that sought to drive the Taliban from an area near its old stronghold in Kandahar province. According to the *Financial Times*, 500 Taliban fighters were killed in that assault along with five Canadian and 14 British troops.

Meanwhile, British forces are leading a smaller offensive in the neighboring Helmand province, and U.S. forces on September 16 opened Operation Mountain Fury in central and eastern Afghan provinces.

Washington tightens economic squeeze on Iran

Continued from front page

bank ties with north Korea.

The first week of September, the U.S. Treasury Department cut off access to U.S. financial institutions for Bank Saderat, a major Iranian bank. The move makes it more difficult for Iran to trade oil or other commodities in dollars. According to an article in the September 17 *New York Times*, "Some European banks have already curtailed their activities with Iran, but many leading banks have refused." Paris and Berlin, in particular, have extensive investments in Iran.

Meanwhile, the big-business press is becoming filled with reports describing what a U.S. military attack on Iran might look like.

"In his televised 9/11 address, President George Bush said we must not 'leave our children to face a Middle East overrun by terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons,'" said conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer in an article in the September 15 *Investor's Business Daily*. "There's only one such current candidate: Iran.

"The next day, he responded thus (as reported by Rich Lowry and Kate O'Beirne of *National Review*) to a question on Iran: 'It's very important for the American people to see the president try to solve problems diplomatically before resorting to military force.'

"'Before' implies that the one follows the other. The signal is unmistakable. An aerial attack on Iran's nuclear facilities lies beyond the horizon of diplomacy."

The September 15 issue of *Time* magazine ran a cover story headlined, "What War With Iran Would Look Like." It reported that the U.S. Navy is reviewing options for a blockade of the Arab-Persian Gulf and practicing minesweeper operations in that region, which "would seem to suggest that a much discussed—but until now largely theoretical—prospect has become real: that the U.S. may be preparing for war with Iran."

Time cited an unnamed Pentagon official who told the magazine there are 1,500 different "aim points" for targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, "which means the campaign could well require the involvement of almost every type of aircraft in the U.S. arsenal: Stealth bombers and fighters, B-1s and B-2s, as well as F-15s and F-16s operating from land and F-18s from aircraft carriers.

"GPS-guided munitions and laser-targeted bombs—sighted by satellite, spotter aircraft and unmanned vehicles—would do most of the bunker busting. But because many of the targets are hardened under several feet of reinforced concrete, most would have to be hit over and over to ensure that they were destroyed or sufficiently damaged.

"The U.S. would have to mount the usual aerial ballet, refueling tankers as well as search-and-rescue helicopters in case pilots were shot down by Iran's aging but possibly still effective air defenses. U.S. submarines and ships could launch cruise missiles as well, but their warheads are generally too small to do much damage to reinforced concrete—and might be used for secondary targets. An operation of that size would hardly be surgical. Many sites are in highly populated areas, so civilian casualties would be a certainty.

"U.S. officials believe that a campaign of several days, involving hundreds or even thousands of sorties, could set back Iran's nuclear program by two to three years."

At the same time, the Bush administration is trying to give the appearance it is not pushing for a military confrontation.

"In terms of the nuclear issue," Bush told reporters at the Oval Office September 13, he would tell the people of Iran, "I understand that you believe it is in your interest—your sovereign interest and your sovereign right—to have nuclear power…. But I would also say to the Iranian people, there are deep concerns about the intentions of some in your government who would use knowledge gained from a civilian nuclear power industry to develop a weapon that can then fulfill the stated objectives of some of the leadership (to attack Israel and threaten the U.S.). And I would say to the Iranian people that I would want to work for a solution to meeting your rightful desires to have civilian nuclear power."

Bush added, "I would tell the Iranian people that we have no desire for conflict."

Imperialist troops in Lebanon

Continued from front page

NATO on the inside." Now, Friedman said, "Hezbollah will not be able to directly attack Israel without getting embroiled in a conflict with 15,000 French, Italian, Indian, and possibly Turkish peacekeepers. That is a big new strategic problem for Hezbollah, Iran, and Syria." A similar strategy could be employed along Israel's borders with the Palestinian territories as Israeli forces withdraw, he said.

A bourgeois party based in the Shiite population of Lebanon, Hezbollah—the "Party of God"—was the primary target of Israel's military assault. The group, which calls for the establishment of an Islamic Republic modeled on Tehran, had been the dominant military authority in southern Lebanon until the cease-fire.

Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, made it clear in a September 17 interview with the *Washington Post* that Tel Aviv will direct its next assault on Lebanon's government rather than Hezbollah if the UN "peacekeepers" don't do their job.

"We are going to face a state which does not implement its responsibility or maybe does not exercise its sovereignty," Livni said. "And so in French they say tant pis," which the *Post* translated as "too bad."

"We could have done Lebanon in a few days, I think, if we had decided to attack Lebanon as a state," Livni said.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government is facing a continued barrage of criticism from a substantial section of the armed forces for its handling of the war. Moshe Ya'alon, the former Israeli Defense Forces chief of staff who is now positioning himself for a political career, joined the chorus, calling for the resignation of the prime minister, defense minister, and current military chief of staff.

In an interview published in the September 14 Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, Ya'alon said the final ground offensive of the war, in which 33 Israeli soldiers died, was conducted simply to give the appearance of a military victory.

"It had no substantive security-political goal, only a spin goal. You don't send soldiers to carry out a futile mission after the political outcome has already been set," Ya'alon said, referring to the UN cease-fire negotiations.

"Instead of coordinating with the Americans for them to stop us when the operation was at its height, and setting in motion a political process to disarm Hezbollah, we asked the Americans for more time," Ya'alon said. "We let the Americans think that we have some sort of gimmick that will vanquish Hezbollah militarily."

Ya'alon made his name for leading a brutal campaign of assassinations and assaults in the occupied Palestinian territories after taking the top military post in 2002. He described his task at the time as "chemotherapy" for the "cancer," which he said the Palestinian national struggle represents to the existence of the state of Israel.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA

Miami

The Middle East, Capitalism's World Disorder, and Prospects for Revolutionary Change. A special forum to benefit the $90,000 Militant Fund. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, former editor of the *Militant*. Sat., Sept. 30, 4:00 p.m. *8365 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 206. Tel.: (305) 756-4436*.

IOWA

Des Moines

Defend Abortion Rights. Speakers: Helen Meyers, Socialist Workers candidate for 3rd Congressional District in Iowa; others. Fri., Sept. 29. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.*

MINNESOTA

Twin Cities

Meet the Socialist Workers Candidates. Oppose Washington's Imperialist War Drive! Sat., Sept. 30. Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. *113 Bernard St. E., W. St. Paul. Tel.: (651) 644-6325.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Independence for Puerto Rico! Speaker: Antonio Camacho, Puerto Rican independence fighter who spent 15 years as a political prisoner in the United States, recently released from jail after being re-arrested by U.S. authorities in March 2006. Fri., Sept. 29. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor (near 8th Ave., use north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Poll Tax and the Fight against Anti-Chinese Discrimination in New Zealand. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:00 p.m. *7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above laundromat). Tel.: 09-276-8885.*

ON THE PICKET LINE

Detroit public school teachers strike 16 days against cutbacks

DETROIT—Defying a back-to-work court injunction, the 9,500 members of the Detroit Federation of Teachers struck for 16 days August 28–September 13 against the school board's demands for $88 million in pay and benefit cuts. This included a 5.5 percent pay cut over two years, increased insurance costs, and a reduction in sick days from 10 to five. A 1994 state law bars strikes by public employees. Teachers can be fined a day's wages for each day on strike and the union an be fined $5,000 per day. The strike effectively shut down all public schools in the city with the unionists conducting large spirited picket lines.

Classrooms reopened September 14 after the union leadership and school board announced agreement on a tentative three-year contract that will freeze pay for the first year with raises of 1 percent and 2.5 percent over the next two years, the Associated Press reported. Teachers are voting on the proposed contract over the next several weeks.

—*Marshall Lambie*

Ford announces buyouts of all 75,000 U.S. union workers

The Ford Motor Company has announced plans to offer job buyouts to all 75,000 of its hourly factory workers in the United States, and shut down 16 plants throughout North America, in order to cut payroll costs by nearly a third and boost profits. Under this arrangement, younger workers who accept a $100,000 payment eliminating their job must agree to give up retiree health-care benefits and pensions. Ford's plan is to eliminate 25,000 to 30,000 union jobs by the end of 2008. Ford said it lost $1.3 billion in its North American operations the first half of 2006.

Earlier this year, General Motors implemented a similar plan, reducing its workforce by 34,400 hourly workers through buyouts and early retirement.

With their starting point being the profitability of "our companies," officials of the United Auto Workers union have backed the buyouts and layoffs of tens of thousands of UAW members at both Ford and GM. "The companies are likely to continue to press the weakened union, arguing Detroit's UAW-represented operations can't compete with nonunion factories in the U.S. run by the companies' foreign rivals," said an article in the September 15 *Wall Street Journal.*

—*Brian Williams*

Ohio: Steelworkers rally against Continental Tire benefit cuts

AKRON, Ohio—On Wednesday, September 13, more than 100 Continental Tire workers and retirees from across the country protested outside of the John S. Knight Convention Center during the 2006 World Tire Manufacturers' Show here. United Steelworkers Local 890 from Bryan, Ohio; Local 665 from Mayfield, Kentucky; and Local 850 from Charlotte, North Carolina, joined together in protest over the illegal and immoral actions of Continental Tire.

Continental Tire slashed jobs and benefits all across the country for retirees and active workers. Health care premiums will skyrocket: retirees will have to use more than half of their pension just to cover health insurance and active workers will pay outrageous monthly premiums in Charlotte, North Carolina. Protest signs included, "Keep your promise," and workers chanted "Continental Tire corporate liar."

—*Mark West*

Socialist candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas: 'Legalize all immigrants now!'



Militant/Steve Warshell

HOUSTON—Amanda Ulman (center) Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas being interviewed September 12 on the Pacifica affiliate KPFT-FM in Houston. "The SWP candidates call for unionizing all workers and for legalization of all immigrants now, without conditions, without questioning, without having to pay thousands of dollars in fines," she said. The next day, Ulman, a meat packer, received a popular response from a dozen co-workers who had listened to the show and said they appreciated the campaign's strong position in defense of the working class.

—ANTHONY DUTROW

A worker's dollar for workers' press: Give to 'Militant'

Continued from front page

Lenin, the central leader of the Bolshevik Party and the October 1917 Russian Revolution, wrote about how a proletarian party campaigns for subscriptions and contributions to the socialist press.

"The working-class press needs to be developed and strengthened," Lenin wrote in a 1912 article. "And this requires money. Workers' newspapers in Russia can be satisfactorily organised through persevering effort only on conditions that the workers constantly arrange massive collections."

Lenin celebrated the success of a six-month fund drive to launch *Pravda* as a daily paper. "By founding a workers' daily newspaper, the workers of St. Petersburg have accomplished a major feat, one that without exaggeration can be called historic," he wrote. They could be proud of "founding a press of their own."

During that fund drive, he noted, workers in St. Petersburg and elsewhere had made 504 group donations. The key was not the amount of each donation, Lenin said, but the number of workers who became the backbone of *Pravda*'s circulation and its financial bedrock.

"A newspaper founded on the basis of five-kopek pieces collected by small factory circles of workers is a far more dependable, solid and serious undertaking," Lenin wrote, "than a newspaper founded with tens and hundreds of rubles contributed by sympathising intellectuals."

He added, "The significance of such collections will depend above all on their being regularly held every payday, without interruption, and on an ever greater number of workers taking part in these regular collections." Lenin gave importance to regular reports in *Pravda* on the progress of these fund-raising efforts and promoted the campaigning slogan, "A workers' kopek for the workers' newspaper!"

Supporters of *Pravda* campaigned vigorously to expand "its circulation among fellow workers, acquaintances, countrymen, etc. The politically conscious friends of *Pravda* do not limit themselves to subscribing to the paper but pass it on or send it to others as a sample, to make it known at other factories, in neighboring flats or houses, in the countryside and so on," Lenin wrote.

It's in this spirit that *Militant* supporters are campaigning to increase its subscription base and raise the needed funds. To make a donation, write checks or money orders to the *Militant*, earmarked "Militant Fund," and send them to 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

$90,000 'Militant' Fund Drive
Sept. 9 –Nov. 7 ♦ Week 1 of 8

Country	Quota	Paid	%
ICELAND	**450**	**80**	**18%**
AUSTRALIA	1,200	75	6%
NEW ZEALAND	2,500	117	5%
UNITED STATES			
Miami	**2,500**	**365**	**15%**
Pittsburgh	4,200	500	12%
Los Angeles	8,200	600	7%
San Francisco	8,500	600	7%
Des Moines	2,200	150	7%
Seattle	7,000	315	5%
Twin Cities	4,800	200	4%
New York	13,000	440	3%
Newark	3,500	40	1%
Washington, D.C.	2800	25	1%
Albany	120		0%
Amherst	60		0%
Atlanta	4,750		0%
Birmingham	3,500		0%
Boston	3,500		0%
Chicago	5,000		0%
Houston	3,200		0%
Philadelphia	3,000		0%
Other	250	250	100%
U.S. total	80,080	3485	4%
CANADA	3,500		0%
SWEDEN	500		0%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	500		0%
London	1300		0%
UK total	1800		0%
Intl'l totals	**90,030**	**3757**	**4%**
Should be	**90,000**	**11,250**	**13%**

'Militant' circulation campaign

Continued from front page

said Laura Anderson, a *Militant* supporter in Chicago. "At the plant gate we sold 10 copies. Two weeks earlier we had sold 15 papers there. We also sold 4 subscriptions and 7 copies in the Black community on the South Side of Chicago. During a conversation on police brutality, two cops harassed the son of a woman we were talking to a couple of houses away. After the police left, the young man bought the *Militant*."

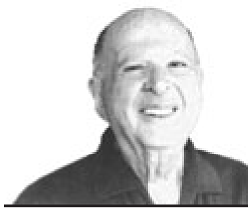
Militant supporters had a good week in Washington and Philadelphia, said Janice Lynn, a meat packer and member of UFCW Local 27, in Washington. "In about two hours going door-to-door last Sunday in two towns on the Delmarva peninsula in Delaware, where two large poultry plants are located, we sold 20 subscriptions and 42 copies of the *Militant*," she said. "Most of those who subscribed are poultry, construction, and farm workers. In addition, we sold two subs at a meeting of my union local following an announcement by one of the UFCW reps that I am the socialist candidate for delegate to the House of Representatives and I had participated in a recent action in Richmond, Virginia, supporting the efforts of Smithfield workers at Tar Heel, North Carolina, to unionize that huge hog slaughterhouse. Another co-worker subscribed at the Briggs packing plant."

There's a similar response in other countries. "We sold a couple of renewals to co-workers on the job at two meat plants," said Alasdair McDonald, a supporter of the *Militant* in Sydney.

Keep such reports coming in. Every reader can join the effort. If you don't receive a bundle you can order one at 70 cents per copy by contacting the *Militant* (see information on page 2). Or you can join teams organized by distributors near you (see directory on page 8).

Fall 'Militant' Subscription Drive
Sept. 9 – Nov. 7 ♦ Week 1 of 8

Country	Quota	Sold	%
AUSTRALIA	**50**	**20**	**40%**
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	**35**	**16**	**46%**
London	**80**	**23**	**29%**
UK Total	**115**	**39**	**34%**
SWEDEN	**37**	**12**	**32%**
NEW ZEALAND	**60**	**17**	**28%**
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	**130**	**44**	**34%**
San Francisco	**75**	**25**	**33%**
Chicago	**100**	**30**	**30%**
Washington, DC	**105**	**27**	**26%**
Newark	**150**	**37**	**25%**
Miami	**170**	**41**	**24%**
Twin Cities	**160**	**38**	**24%**
Birmingham	**115**	**27**	**23%**
Boston	**120**	**25**	**21%**
Des Moines	**175**	**37**	**21%**
Houston	**100**	**21**	**21%**
Albany, NY	**20**	**4**	**20%**
New York	**300**	**60**	**20%**
Atlanta	**100**	**19**	**19%**
Los Angeles	**145**	**23**	**16%**
Seattle	**80**	**12**	**15%**
Amherst, MA	10	1	10%
Pittsburgh	60	3	5%
U.S. Total	**2115**	**475**	**22%**
CANADA	**130**	**25**	**19%**
ICELAND	18	2	11%
OTHER		1	
Int'l totals	**2525**	**591**	**23%**
Should be	**2600**	**325**	**13%**



Harry Ring

Gosh, we too use a walker—The oldest "detainee" in U.S. torture cells in Guantánamo Bay, Haji Nasrat Khan, 71, who uses a walker, has been reportedly returned to Afghanistan. He was never charged with anything.

Think you've heard everything?—The Las Vegas City Council voted unanimously to make it a crime to give food to the homeless in Las Vegas parks. Violators face fines of $1,000 and/or six months in jail. Can the homeless be busted for eating donated food?

All in due time—In Wisconsin, the largest state prison is for women battered physically and emotionally. In response, the federal lawyers have promised they will improve conditions for the abused inmates—over the next six years.

Clairvoyant?—"Decline in Home Sales in Southland Could Foreshadow Falling Prices."—L.A. news headline.

My goodness—"Cracks in Market Raise Doubts about Future"—L.A. business headline.

And we thought it was art for art's sake—"Money is the Real Star in Hollywood. Celebrity matters, but the bottom line is what counts for studio chiefs."—News headline.

Crash, bang!—"The pace of existing U.S. home sales fell more than expected in July as a measure of the supply of unsold homes was the highest in more than 13 years, signifying a deepening housing sector downturn."—*Los Angeles Times.*

Turkish government bombs Kurdish bases in northern Iraq

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Recurring outbreaks of armed clashes with Kurds along Iraq's border with Turkey and Iran highlight the ongoing threat that the Kurdish struggle for self-determination poses to Washington's effort to establish a stable regime in Baghdad.

Turkish jets bombed bases of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) just inside Iraq's northern border, according to an August 25 Reuters dispatch. In July Ankara threatened to send thousands of troops into Iraq if Baghdad and Washington did not take action against the PKK bases.

The PKK was formed in 1978 by radical Kurdish students at Ankara University who were attracted to Maoism. It has carried on a decades-long guerilla campaign against Turkish troops and police.

Ankara has accused Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani of providing arms, shelter, and logistics to the PKK to launch attacks on Turkish security forces from bases in Iraq's northern autonomous region known as Iraqi Kurdistan. Barzani is the central leader of Iraq's Kurdish Democratic Party and president of the Iraqi Kurdistan regional government. Ankara also said up to 5,000 PKK guerillas are in bases in the Qandil mountains along the border between Iraq and Turkey.

The U.S.-backed Iraqi government responded by shutting down PKK offices in Baghdad. Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, telephoned Turkey's prime minister, Recep Erdogan, to give his government's assurances to Ankara, according to the *Turkish Weekly Journal.*

Iraq's vice-president, Tariq al-Hashimi, pledged to end PKK operations against the Turkish government launched from northern Iraq but stressed that all political means for a solution should be exhausted before resorting to armed conflict.

The U.S. State Department is sending a former Air Force general as a special envoy to help coordinate operations against the PKK, reported AP. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the general will have responsibility for coordinating engagement with the governments of Turkey and Iraq to eliminate the threat of the PKK. However, Washington has also repeatedly warned Ankara against sending any troops into northern Iraq.

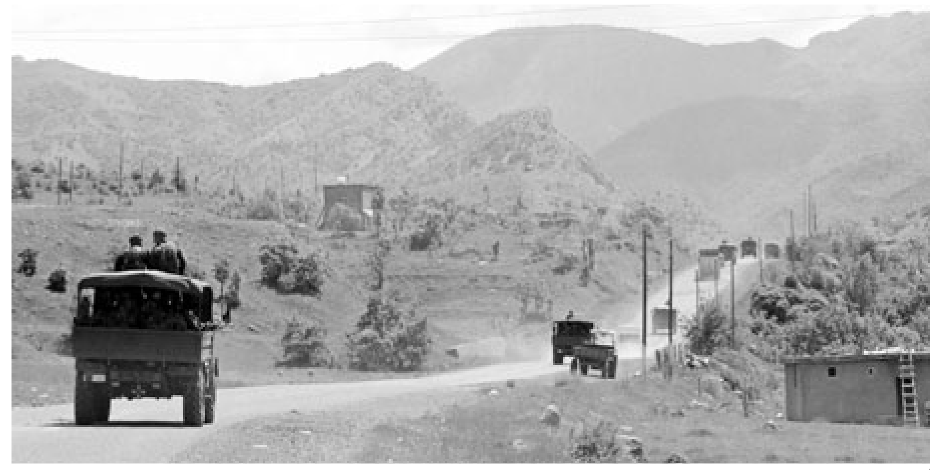
The governments of Turkey and Iran have used tanks and artillery to shell PKK bases, according to the August 18 issue of the British *Guardian*. The report also said that the Kurdistan Free Life Party, described as a sister party in Iran of the PKK, has stepped up attacks against Iranian troops in Kurdish areas, killing eight.

Mustafa Sayed Qadir, a senior member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said the shelling was aimed at bases of Kurdish groups that are fighting for independence from Iran and Turkey, according to the *New York Times.* The PUK along with the Kurdish Democratic Party are the governing parties in Iraqi Kurdistan.

A spokesman for the Kurdistan Regional Government condemned the shelling and urged Baghdad to demand that its neighbors respect its sovereignty.

Meanwhile, 15 Turkish police officers were killed in clashes with PKK militias in August. Ankara announced the arrest of a PKK leader in Turkey in connection with five bombings of tourist resorts. Three people were killed and dozens injured in the attacks.

A group calling itself the Kurdistan Liberation Hawks, and believed to be a split-off from the PKK, took responsibility for the bombings, reported Reuters. The PKK has condemned the attacks.



AP

Turkish troops head to Iraqi border, site of alleged Kurdistan Workers Party bases, in May.

U.S. rulers tighten borders

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

The U.S. Senate voted unanimously September 14 to approve a bill allotting $5 billion to increase cargo inspection at ports over the next six years.

According to Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat from Washington State who co-authored the bill, the legislation "works toward a goal of getting to 100 percent screening" of cargo coming into the United States from foreign ports. The bill, which would add 1,000 additional customs and border officers, also allots $3.6 million to beef up "homeland security" on the railroad and mass transit, including random passenger and baggage screening.

Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York who voted for the bill, criticized it for not going far enough. "Programs to screen for nuclear materials are years delayed…and international security programs have been grossly mismanaged and underfunded," he said.

The House of Representatives approved a bill the same day to build a two-layer fence along 700 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. That day the House also passed the Secure Fence Act to increase the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, ground-based sensors, satellites, and cameras on "the entire international and land maritime borders." The act instructs the Department of Homeland Security to investigate the feasibility of constructing a wall along the border with Canada.

"Every day smugglers are bringing drugs, people, and other contraband across our northern borders, which is met with little or no resistance," Candice Miller, a Republican from Michigan, argued during the House debate on the legislation.

A similar "homeland security" drive is unfolding on the other side of the border. On August 31, Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, announced that Canadian border patrol agents will be armed with guns over the next decade. Ottawa will also hire 400 more border cops to augment the 4,400 it currently has, he said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 2, 1981

SAN JUAN—The U.S. government's devastating budget cuts and their catastrophic effects in Puerto Rico have provoked a massive response from nearly every sector of the island's population.

In this U.S. colony, the Reagan offensive is being implemented by Governor Carlos Romero Barceló leader of the New Progressive Party (PNP), which favors making Puerto Rico a state.

The most decisive of the struggles taking place is that of the Puerto Rican electrical workers.

On August 20, the Union of Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers (UTIER)—6,700 strong, among the most combative of Puerto Rican workers—mounted the picket lines in a strike provoked by the state-run Electrical Energy Authority (AEE).

On another front, 5,000 students voted on September 3 to strike against a tripling of university tuition fees and other cuts in financial aid.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 1, 1956

Approximately 25,000 Swift & Co. workers struck 42 Swift packing plants across the nation as all of the meatpacking companies refused to make any fair wage offers. Although contracts with all the meatpackers have expired, the leaders of the two big meat unions—the United Packinghouse Workers of America, AFL-CIO and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL-CIO—have chosen to strike only the Swift chain.

Offers by the companies are all very similar. They are demanding a three-year contract with no wage reopeners. This will tie the hands of the union in the next period in which a drop in meat production is forecast and a rapid mechanization and job-eliminating will begin. The meat companies will certainly pay for this strike with a much increased class consciousness and militancy by the union membership.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

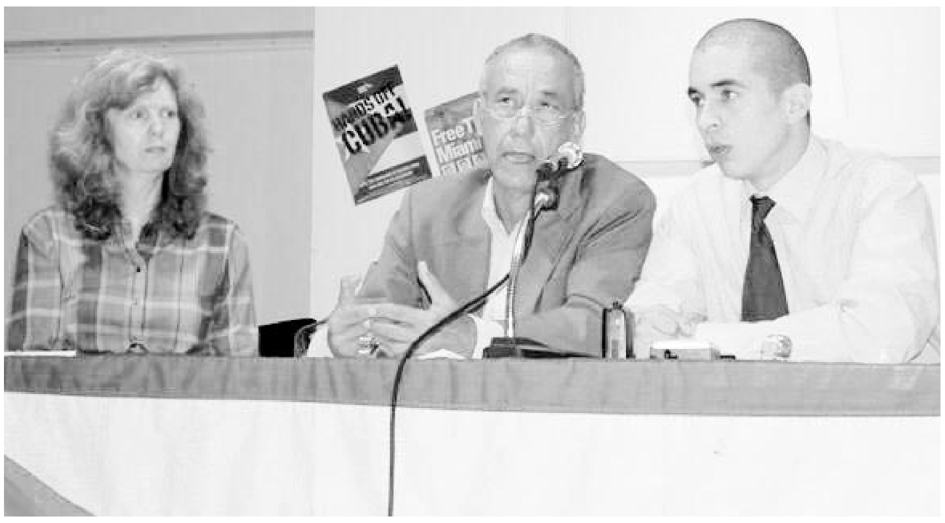
October 10, 1931

The latest Hoover conference, this time with the bankers who dominate the financial and industrial life of the country; and then, formally, with representatives in Congress of both parties, has brought forth a new panacea for the curing of the ills which are eating into the vitals of American imperialism.

Only those who are permanently gullible will find it possible to believe that the new Hoover plan of action will succeed in liquidating the acute crisis through which the United States is passing. The principal problem for the American ruling class, and its governmental agent, Hoover, to solve, is that of setting the wheels of industry into motion on a scale which would at least approximate that of the late "prosperity" period. This problem Hoover has not even come close to solving by this numerous "conferences" in the past, and surely, not by his oracular pronouncements that the "depression" was but slight and temporary.

Cuban revolutionary Fernando Martínez touring UK:

To triumph, revolution in Cuba went beyond 'politics of the possible'



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Panel at September 9 meeting in London on "The Cuban Revolution: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," featuring Fernando Martínez (center). Next to him are Wendy Knight of the North London Cuba Solidarity Campaign and translator Yonatan Mosquera.

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—"For the Cuban Revolution to triumph, the Cuban people had to go beyond the 'politics of the possible.' As they did so, they extended the bounds of what was, in fact, possible. And in transforming their world, they also transformed themselves," said Fernando Martínez Heredia at a meeting of 120 people held here September 9 in Bolívar Hall.

The meeting was the end of a weeklong visit by the Cuban revolutionary on the invitation of the Cuba Research Forum at Nottingham University. Martínez, who works at the Cuban Ministry of Culture's Juan Marinello Center, was a keynote speaker at a September 7–8 conference in Nottingham on "Emigrations and exiles; immigrations and influences: the impact of the human flux on the formation of Cuba," sponsored by the Research Center.

The Cuban delegation to the conference also included prominent writers and academics Ambrosio Fornet, Joaquín Santana, Jorge Luis Acanda, and Nara Araujo. Conference organizer Tony Kapcia also made it possible for Martínez to address public meetings in Edinburgh and London.

Ninety people attended the Edinburgh meeting. It was chaired by Liz Elkind on behalf of the Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign, the event's chief sponsor. Other sponsors included Edinburgh Labour Party councillors Phil Attridge, Dougie Kerr, and Gordon Munro; Gerry Corbett, convenor of the trade union Unison; and Ron Brown of the Edinburgh Trades Council. Among those in attendance were six workers from a local meat plant.

In introducing the London meeting, Wendy Knight of the North London Cuba Solidarity Campaign, which hosted the event, welcomed the presence of Cuban ambassador René Mujica and first secretary Silvia Blanca. Others present at the meeting included Zuleiva Vivas, cultural attaché at the Venezuelan embassy, and Gloria Carnevali, director of the Bolívar Hall.

Dozens of Latin American–born workers and youth attended the London event. Sponsors included Alberto Durango of the Latin American Workers Association, which over the last couple of years has worked with the Transport and General Workers' Union in an effort to unionize London cleaners (janitors). Also attending was Gloria Gómez of the Latin Front. The meeting was promoted by Latino radio stations, one of which carried out a telephone interview with Martínez.

Struggle for national liberation

In his presentations in Edinburgh and London, Martínez explained the popular character of the revolutionary struggles in Cuba since the 19th century. "The bourgeoisie was too wedded to imperialist interests, especially British interests, to be a reliable ally in the struggle for independence against Spain," he said. He explained that the forces involved in the wars against Spain included hundreds of thousands of African slaves and former slaves as well as Chinese indentured laborers.

"Real independence was denied Cuba by the intervention of the United States," he said. "It took the socialist revolution to open up the possibility and reality of national liberation."

"This is a revolution of millions," he said. "You'll notice that I've spoken for half an hour and not mentioned Fidel Castro, as important as he is," Martínez said at the end of his talk.

Speaking of the Cuban president's illness and transfer of responsibilities, he said, "The enemies of the revolution are waiting for something to happen, but the country is peacefully going about its business."

Themes raised by questioners at the meetings included democracy in Cuba, the place of Blacks in that country, the right of Cubans to travel, the use of the U.S. dollar as Cuban currency, the energy crisis and social inequalities on the island, the connections between Cuba and political developments in Latin America today, Cuba's relations with China, and Cuba's prospects in light of President Fidel Castro's illness.

Addressing the current challenges

In response to a question in Edinburgh about the current efforts by Cuba's revolutionary leadership to address the consequences of corruption, Martínez said that last November Castro "pointed out that Cuba's enemies had failed to destroy the revolution, but that the revolution could destroy itself."

"This is not a new idea. It means recollecting historical experience, what happened in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe," he said at the London meeting.

Understanding Fidel Castro's point about the role of the leadership, Martínez said, "has important political consequences. The socialist transition is not reducible to an economic engine pulling everything else along behind. Nor is it about establishing new institutions that need 'perfecting.'

"What's decisive to a socialist transition—you'll notice I say socialist transition and not socialism—is a moral and political development, a series of cultural revolutions through which people change the institutions that get set up and change themselves in the process."

Martínez said Cuba's internationalist missions are key to this process. Today thousands of Cuban doctors and other medical personnel are working as volunteers in 68 countries.

"The missions bring much needed medical care to millions who have been denied it," he said. "But the experience also deeply affects those on the missions themselves. They experience what life is like under capitalism, and they experience what they themselves are capable of. This is what happened when Cuban volunteers went to Angola," he said, referring to the hundreds of thousands of Cuban combatants who helped defeat the South African apartheid regime's invasions of that country.

"It's the same with voluntary work in Cuba," Martínez added. "Today thousands of young people are engaged in what we call social work—going to areas that have real problems in an attempt to address them. But in the process of solving problems they're also educating themselves."

"What the Cubans did in Angola broke the myth of the invincibility of apartheid," Jorge Atunes told the *Militant* after the meeting. Atunes was a member of the youth movement of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), now the governing party of that African country, at the time of the 1975 South African invasion. He studied four years in Cuba in the late 1970s and is now a cleaner in London involved in the unionization efforts.

"I liked what he had to say about the revolution not simply being an economic motor," Sabir Mohammed, a clothing and textile worker, told the *Militant*. "A revolution has to result in changing human beings."

N.Y.: Day laborers fight for right to work

Continued from front page

stand, and stares at us as if he is going to do something to us, until we eventually move," René López, originally from Guatemala, who works as a painter, told the *Militant* here today. "Wherever we stand the cop says we can't stand there and follows you until you move again. He makes us nervous. We all have the right to seek out a living, and they think we have less value as human beings."

In April, the town closed a site at Columbus Park where the workers used to wait for jobs, supposedly to avoid a possible lawsuit from residents objecting to the use of the town's land as an official hiring site. This area had been shut down temporarily in January after residents complained that a growing number of day laborers were gathering at the park and causing disturbances.

Oscar Cadena, from Mexico, works as a taper in construction. He said the number of contractors coming by to offer jobs has dropped because of harassment by cops, who have been giving tickets to the contractors for stopping to talk to the workers.

"This used to be a good stop," Cadena told the *Militant*, adding that day laborers have been coming here to seek jobs for many years.

"We are not hurting anybody," said Alberto Quiñonez, who is also a member of Local 530 of the tapers' union. "They say we are using drugs and causing public disturbances, but they have never arrested anyone." Quiñonez said he comes here often when work through the union is slow in Manhattan. "You have to seek out a living anyway you can," he told the *Militant*.

"We want the court to determine that whether you are a documented or undocumented laborer, you have certain basic rights that cannot be violated by the government," said Cesar Perales, president of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is assisting the workers with the lawsuit. "This is an undercurrent that will go through many other suburbs. What you have is local governments employing different tactics to drive out the day laborers," he said.

The lawsuit against the village of Mamaroneck is one of several that have been filed in recent years by day laborers and their supporters to counter attacks by capitalist politicians and rightist groups across the country seeking to criminalize these workers.

The antilabor measures include English-only local ordinances, and other provisions that penalize companies or landlords for employing or renting to undocumented immigrants. This includes cracking down on contractors, giving local cops the power to check workers' immigration status, and turning over to federal immigration agents those without proper documents for deportation. Workers also face anti-loitering laws, selective and discriminatory enforcement of housing codes, and vehicle and traffic legislation.

The lawsuits by day laborers reflect a fighting mood among a growing number of workers who are willing to defend their rights.

Groups of day laborers attended the daily court hearings after the trial started, workers here told the *Militant.*

According to the September 17 *New York Times,* one of the workers who testified at the trial, identified as John Doe 6, told the court through a Spanish interpreter, "An officer stands very close, sometimes within a foot or 18 inches, to where I or a group of day laborers stand. He crosses his arms and stares at us for long periods of time until we eventually feel compelled to change our location.

"Sometimes," he added, "he places his hand on his gun while he stares at us."

Many of the day laborers here also took part in the area's May 1 actions to demand legalization for all immigrants. "The majority here did not work that day," said José García, 20, from Guatemala, who works in landscaping. "We have to do something, not just stand here looking for work."

Pope's remarks on Islam spark protests

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Pope Benedict XVI gave a major speech September 12 at the University of Regensburg in Germany. Billed as an address on faith and reason, the talk was aimed at bolstering Christendom as an integral part of the "western" alliance of imperialist powers. A minor part of the speech on Islam evoked protests by bourgeois regimes in majority Muslim countries from South Asia to the Mideast and from Islamist groups. Reactions included the burning of churches and a declaration of war on "worshippers of the cross" by Al-Qaeda in Iraq.

The carefully crafted talk represented a shift in the church's position from that put forward by the previous pope, John Paul II, who pointed to the dispossession of the Palestinians as the key source of problems facing Christians in the region.

Pope Benedict instead emphasized in his September 12 speech that the real source of danger for Christianity in the Middle East is Islamic jihadism.

In his talk the pope made his point by quoting from a book recounting a conversation on Christianity and Islam between 14th century Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologos and a Persian scholar. "The emperor comes to speak about the issue of jihad holy war," the pope said. He then quoted the emperor as saying, "Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith preached." He further quoted the emperor: "God is not pleased by blood—and not acting reasonably…. To convince a reasonable soul, one does not need a strong arm, or weapons of any kind, or any other means of threatening a person with death."

Most of the pope's speech was devoted to opposing "dehellenization" of the church, that is, favoring restoration of the logic of Greek philosophers like Aristotle as part of religious doctrine; appealing to practical- and scientific-minded people to include Christian theology as part of the rationale for "Western" civilization; and arguing that Catholicism, combining "faith and reason," and having taken "its historical character in Europe" while having today a foothold in much of the semicolonial world, is the church best poised for a "dialogue" with other religious beliefs, and, thus, an indispensable part of the "West's" reach.

It was the pope's remark on Islam, however, that caught the attention. An editorial in the September 15 *Investor's Business Daily* noted, "We have to assume that the pope knew exactly what he was doing when he put those lines into his carefully crafted speech. The emperor's words are harsher than those that a modern-day pope would use."

The pope's comments provoked the intended response. Some 2,000 people organized by the Palestinian group Hamas, which runs the Palestinian National Authority and seeks an Islamic Republic, marched in Gaza September 15 to protest Benedict's remarks. Seven churches were firebombed September 16–17 in the West Bank and Gaza. Aljazeera reported that in Gaza City "four small makeshift bombs exploded at a youth center run by the city's oldest Christian church." In Basra, southern Iraq, 150 protesters attacked a church and burned an effigy of the pope. A similar effigy burning took place in India. In Mogadishu, Somalia, a 65-year-old Italian nun was shot dead by two gunmen at a children's hospital September 17 "in an attack possibly linked to worldwide anger toward Pope Benedict," reported the *New York Sun*.



Reuters/Abed Omar Qusini

Anglican church in Nablus, West Bank, firebombed September 16 in retaliation to pope's remarks. Five other Christian churches were burned in that city.

Pakistan's parliament unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the pope for making "derogatory" comments, and demanding an apology. "Anyone who describes Islam as a religion as intolerant encourages violence," Tasnim Aslam, a Pakistani foreign ministry spokeswoman, told Associated Press. The government of Turkey took a similar stance.

Protests took place in Lebanon and Egypt and the government of Morocco recalled its ambassador to the Vatican.

A statement issued by the Mujahideen Shura Council, an umbrella group led by Al-Qaeda in Iraq, said, according to Reuters, "We tell the worshipper of the cross (the Pope) that you and the West will be defeated, as is the case in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya. We shall break the cross and spill the wine…. God will (help) Muslims to conquer Rome…. (May) God enable us to slit their throats, and make their money and descendants the bounty of the mujahedeen."

On September 17 the pope issued a "statement of regret," which did not contain an apology for what he said. "I am deeply sorry for the reactions in some countries to a few passages of my address… which were considered offensive to the sensibility of Muslims," the pope said. "These, in fact, were a quotation from a medieval text which does not in any way express my personal thought."

Many Muslim figures initially said the pope's statement was insufficient. Within a day, however, many Muslim religious leaders took their distance from the violent protests. "The pope has apologized, and that's enough, so let's calm down," said Hasyim Muzadi, head of Indonesia's largest Islamic organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, according to the September 18 *New York Times*. "If we remain furious the pope will be proved correct."

Bolivia suspends takeover of Brazilian oil firm

Continued from front page

of the Petrobras refineries and set new prices for natural gas sold to Brazil.

Under the nationalization decree, taxes and royalties paid by foreign companies can be increased from 18 percent to 50 percent. Foreign energy companies were also ordered to agree to new contracts with Bolivia's YPFB within 180 days from the date the decree was issued. During the transition period the law established that the state of Bolivia would get 82 percent of revenues and foreign investors 18 percent.

Since May, Petrobras and the Bolivian government have been locked in negotiations over taxes, export prices, and other terms of trade. La Paz had proposed an 87 percent increase in the price of natural gas exports, from the current $4 per million BTUs to $7.50, which Petrobras officials have vowed to resist.

Bolivia has the second largest natural gas reserves in Latin America, after Venezuela, with an estimated 54 trillion cubic feet. About 25 energy companies have investments in Bolivia. The biggest foreign operators there are Petrobras and the Spanish-Argentine Repsol. Others include British Petroleum, Total of France, and U.S.-based ExxonMobil. About half of Brazil's natural gas needs are supplied by Bolivia, including 70 percent of the key industrial region of São Paulo.

Since nationalization was announced, Brazil's government and Petrobras officials have expressed opposition to the move. Petrobras officials suspended investment and threatened to take Bolivia's government to an international court to seek compensation for the two refineries if the measure was not revoked.

"We are not going to give up Petrobras's investments," said company president José Sérgio Gabrielli. "We want to sell the refineries, not give them up." Petrobras is demanding $1.5 billion for them, an astronomical price for much less developed Bolivia.

The crisis between the two governments has highlighted Brazil's dominant economic place in the region, and the role of da Silva's government in defending the interest of Brazil's capitalist class.

Petrobras is the single largest investor in Bolivia, with its operations alone producing the equivalent of 20 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

"We have to see them (Bolivians) with the eyes of a bigger economy and help them develop," da Silva told the press September 14.

Other foreign investors have expressed similar attitudes. Spain's prime minister, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, said nationalization could affect the amount of "aid" Madrid provides to Bolivia. Working people in Bolivia have fought for years against what they see as the robbing of the country's natural gas and oil resources by foreign energy monopolies. In the process they have toppled several governments. A central demand of the campaign that brought Evo Morales to office was for nationalization of energy resources, including higher royalty payments from foreign investors.

"The oil companies only want to continue stealing," said Sósimo Paniagua, a leader of the Bolivian Workers Federation, according to the Internet news service *Econoticias.com*. "The Brazilian company only intends to keep our resources and the workers would not allow it."

At a press conference in Havana, Evo Morales said the suspension of the refinery takeover was meant to advance negotiations with Petrobras. "We need business partners, not bosses, not owners, whether Total, Repsol, or Petrobras," he said. His administration's nationalization decree did not call for expropriation or expulsion of any foreign company, he pointed out, and foreign companies had a right to recover their investments.

Cuban gov't takes presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

"We have shared trenches in the fight against colonialism, apartheid, disease, and illiteracy," Raúl Castro, acting president of Cuba, told representatives of more than 50 heads of state September 15 at the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Havana. "We have received support [from you] in the just endeavor to preserve the sovereignty and independence attained by our country following many years of bloody and courageous battle."

The Non-Aligned Movement was founded in 1961 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. It brings together 118 states, largely from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, that are oppressed by imperialism. At this year's summit, Cuba took over the revolving presidency of the movement from Malaysia.

"Non-Alignment…involves the struggle to change the current world economic order," Castro said. "This constitutes a system based on exploitation and plundering, the tendency of which is to propagate underdevelopment and increase the gap between a small group of rich countries, home to just 20 percent of the world population, and a vast periphery comprising our countries and home to 80 percent of humankind."

Among those attending this year's summit were the presidents of Iran, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe, as well as the head of north Korea's parliament. The U.S. government declined to send a representative as an observer to the meeting.

The summit adopted a resolution condemning the recent Israeli war on Lebanon and defending Iran's right to develop nuclear energy, while encouraging Tehran to cooperate with the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency.

"We defend the right of our countries to the peaceful use of nuclear energy," Castro said. "Let us call for a general and complete disarmament, including nuclear weapons…. Let us denounce the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, which while supporting Israel's bid to increase their nuclear store, is threatening Iran in an attempt to prevent the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Imperialist ‘free trade’ is inherently unequal

Below is an excerpt from To Speak the Truth: Why Washington’s ‘Cold War’ against Cuba Doesn’t End. *This selection of speeches by Cuban revolutionaries Ernesto Che Guevara and Fidel Castro is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for September. The specific excerpt printed here is from a speech given by Guevara at the UN-sponsored Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 25, 1964. Copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH



Ernesto Che Guevara (seated left), Cuban minister of industry, participating in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva, Switzerland, 1964.

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

The various forms of discrimination that hamper trade, and that make it easier for the imperialists to manipulate a range of primary commodities and a number of countries producing those commodities, are still being maintained. In the nuclear age, it is simply absurd to classify products such as copper and other minerals as strategic materials and to prevent trade in them. Yet this policy has been maintained and is maintained to this day. There is also talk of so-called incompatibilities between state monopoly of foreign trade and the forms of trading adopted by the capitalist countries. Using that pretext, discriminatory relations, quotas, etc., are established—maneuvers in which GATT has played a dominant role under the official guise of combating unfair trade practices. Discrimination against state trading not only serves as a weapon against the socialist countries but is also designed to prevent the underdeveloped countries from adopting any of the most urgent measures needed to strengthen their negotiating position on the international market and to counteract the actions of the monopolies.

The suspension of economic aid by international agencies to countries adopting the socialist system of government is a further variation on the same theme. A common practice of the International Monetary Fund in recent years has been to attack bilateral payment agreements with socialist countries and to impose on its weaker members a policy of opposing this type of relations between peoples.

As we have already pointed out, all these discriminatory measures imposed by imperialism have the dual object of blockading the socialist camp and strengthening the exploitation of the underdeveloped countries.

It is undeniable that present-day prices are unfair. It is equally true that those prices are conditioned by monopoly restriction of markets and by the establishment of political relationships that make free competition a term applied one-sidedly: free competition for the monopolies—a free fox among free chickens.

Quite apart from the agreements that may emanate from this conference, opening up the large and growing markets of the socialist camp would help to raise raw material prices. The world has plenty of hunger, but not enough money to buy food. And paradoxically in the underdeveloped world, in the world of hunger, projects for increasing food production—that is, to be able to eat—are actually discouraged in order to maintain present prices. This is the inexorable law of the philosophy of plunder, which must cease to be the rule in relations between peoples.

Furthermore, it would be feasible for some underdeveloped countries to export manufactured goods to the socialist countries and even make long-term agreements so as to enable some nations to make better use of their natural wealth and specialize in certain branches of industry that would enable them to participate in world trade as producers of manufactured products. All this can be complemented by the supplying of long-term credits for the development of the industries, or branches of industry, we are considering. It must always be borne in mind, however, that certain measures with respect to relations between socialist countries and underdeveloped countries cannot be taken unilaterally.

It is a strange paradox that while in its reports the United Nations is forecasting adverse trends in the foreign trade of the underdeveloped countries, and while Dr. Prebisch, the secretary-general of the conference, is stressing the dangers that will arise if this state of affairs persists, there is still talk of the feasibility—and in some cases the necessity, as with the so-called strategic materials—of discriminating against certain states because they belong to the socialist camp.

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EDITORIAL

With Bolivia against capitalist Brazil

The day after the Bolivian government announced a new policy increasing its control over foreign natural gas profits, the administration of President Evo Morales suspended the measure in face of intense pressure by the government of Brazil. Working people around the world should condemn the action by Brazil's government, which serves the capitalist rulers of the largest country in Latin America. It is a big blow to Bolivia's workers and farmers, who also face as enemies the national bourgeoisie, which is mostly hostile to nationalization, and the imperialist powers in the United States and Europe.

Bolivia is rich in mineral resources. A leading producer of tin, it has the second-largest reserves of natural gas in Latin America. But Bolivia remains the most impoverished country in South America. More than 60 percent live on less than $2 a day. In rural areas, one out of four people have running water and 15 percent have electricity. Bolivia is squeezed by payments to imperialist investors on foreign debt of $4.7 billion, more than half its gross domestic product. Meanwhile, capitalist investors have raked in massive profits from natural gas extraction in Bolivia, whose biggest investors are Brazil's Petrobras followed by Spanish-Argentine Repsol and French-based Total.

The intolerable conditions facing Bolivia's workers and peasants have sparked mass struggles over its natural resources and wealth, leading to popular revolts that forced out two previous governments and allowed Morales to win the December 2005 elections.

With heightened expectations among working people, the new Bolivian government announced nationalization of gas and oil on May 1, as well as a land reform and other popular measures. The capitalists—domestic and foreign—have resisted these measures from the start, most recently with a one-day bosses' "strike" on September 8. The following week, after the decree by the Bolivian government that it would limit the profits of foreign energy companies from their Bolivian operations, Petrobras and the Brazilian government came down on Bolivia like a ton of bricks, threatening to pull out unless La Paz reversed its decision. The Bolivian government immediately backed down.

Through their actions Brazil's social democratic government, its president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who often demagogically claims to speak for the toilers, and that country's ruling party, misnamed "Workers Party," are serving the interests of Brazilian capital by undermining the sovereignty of a smaller semicolonial country and siphoning off its wealth. They are also aiding the efforts by the U.S., French, Spanish, and other imperialist powers to increase their exploitation of Bolivia and the rest of Latin America.

While Brazil itself is a country oppressed by imperialism, its capitalist rulers, like those in Argentina, have long played a major role in plundering smaller Latin American nations such as Bolivia and Paraguay. They have helped maintain the unequal terms of trade that benefit the more developed capitalist countries at the expense of the poorer nations, whose underdevelopment is thus perpetuated. They profit from Bolivia's landlocked condition, refusing to do anything to support that nation's historic demand for access to the Pacific coast.

The interests of working people throughout the Americas and worldwide, however, lie in backing the struggles of Bolivia's working people for national sovereignty, decent living conditions, and dignity. Cuba's revolutionary government has set an example in this regard with its internationalist solidarity. Cuba has sent volunteer doctors and teachers to aid in Bolivian medical and literacy programs—free, with no strings attached. It has championed Bolivia's right to gain access to the sea, and has backed the demand for cancellation of the foreign debt of Bolivia and the entire semicolonial world. That is the record of a workers and farmers government.

New Zealand: warehouse strikers win solidarity

Continued from front page

a deal. Union meetings are planned for September 21 to discuss and vote on the proposal.

Rallies, collections, and pickets, including flying pickets to attempt to deter trucks sent directly to the company's supermarkets, have won widespread solidarity.

In Palmerston North dairy factory union members brought 52 cartons of cheese to the picket line. Workers at meat, garment, and sugar refining plants in Auckland have dropped off collections at the seven-day, 24-hour picket line, which stretches 100 yards in front of a complex of warehouses.

"Just now we had 50 people from the [Maritime Union] who came down with food and a cheque of $4,000 that they will bring every week until the dispute is settled," wrote NDU shop steward Daniel Patea in the second issue of *Locked Out*, a joint union publication.

The wharfies' (longshore workers) performed a haka, or Maori challenge. It was "awesome," said Patea.

The union bulletin featured messages of support from maritime unions in Australia and the United States, and the U.S. trade union federation Change to Win.

The big-business media has expressed concern. "Nervous Business Community Watches Strike," read a September 10 headline on the website of the Newstalk ZB radio news program.

Employers and Manufacturers Association chief executive Alasdair Thompson said employers would "strenuously" resist demands for national contracts by other unions.

LETTERS

Great labor uprising of 1877

Thank you for printing the excerpt from Philip Foner's book *The Great Labor Uprising of 1877* [August 21 *Militant*]. While the U.S. government ordered troops to suppress the 1877 strike, U.S. troops were also used in two other conflicts that year.

In his book *Black Reconstruction in America 1860-1880*, W.E.B. Du Bois argues that the Civil War, in effect, did not end with Gen. Robert Lee's surrender in 1865. Forces that eventually became the Ku Klux Klan went to war against the revolutionary reconstruction governments. The KKK eventually defeated reconstruction because President Rutherford Hayes ordered in 1877 federal troops out of the former Confederate states. The defeat meant that Jim Crow laws would be enforced until the government bowed to pressure from the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

The year 1877 was also the war against the Nez Perce Indians. Their defeat and the massacre at Wounded Knee in the 1890s marked the end of the 100-year war against Native Americans by the U.S. government.

Today, the struggles for Black rights and Native American rights continue to be issues that need to be addressed by the workers' movement. In 1877, however, the working class also began to show how it is capable of transforming the world.

H.N.
by e-mail

Afghanistan I

How the hell is the war in Afghanistan imperialist when the country has absolutely nothing to offer in its ruins?

I read a lot of bullocks but that article ["Imperialist war in Afghanistan intensifies" in last week's issue] has taken the cake. I have respect for our dying soldiers and despise those cheering the slime that they are risking their lives fighting. The Taliban are the enemy of civilized people everywhere. Calling this struggle "imperialist" is absolutely disgraceful.

You say you're for working people? How about the honest working people of Afghanistan that don't want to live under religious dogma?

Fabien Malouin
Itzig, Luxemburg

Afghanistan II

It seems that your reporter, Paul Davies, slept through the class on accuracy in headlines but never missed a session of "Misleading symbolism and self-promotion." He and your editors should read Joseph Schumpeter's classic work on imperialism so you understand how to use the word correctly before you misuse it again as you did in "Imperialist war in Afghanistan intensifies."

Dave Thomas
by e-mail

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

War in Afghanistan is imperialist war

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

REPLY TO A READER

Two letters to the editor in this issue challenge the *Militant*'s opposition to the U.S.-led war and occupation in Afghanistan. They bridle at the description of this war as imperialist.

Since U.S. and British forces invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 the *Militant* has called for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops from that country—as well as from throughout Central Asia, Iraq, Yugoslavia, the Korean peninsula, and everywhere else they are deployed.

Imperialism is not an epithet. Unlike its unscientific use by bourgeois commentators (like economist Joseph Schumpeter, cited in one letter) as an expression for a government policy or other superficial features, socialists use the term as Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin did in *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*—a factual description of the nature of the worldwide capitalist system in its final historic stage.

Washington, London, Paris, other western European governments, and those of Australia, Canada, and Japan are imperialist powers. They are ruled by finance capital and driven by economic necessity—the need of their respective ruling capitalist classes to remain profitable— not only to exploit working people within their borders but to export capital and plunder the semicolonial world, competing among themselves over the division of the world's territories and markets.

Many Democratic politicians, trying to outdo the White House as defenders of "America," clamor for a more aggressive conduct of the Afghan war. They are echoed by middle-class radicals, backers of the liberal wing of the capitalist class, who criticize the Iraq war while supporting the imperialist forces in Afghanistan.

The argument about fighting the Taliban as an "enemy of civilized people" is a rationalization for a predatory war. Ever since the imperialist powers first carved up the world in the late 1800s, they have posed as agents of "civilization" against "barbarism" or "Islamic obscurantism"—now "Islamofascism"—to justify their rapacious aims. But it is U.S. imperialism and its allies that are the biggest threat to human progress.

Washington's goal in toppling the Taliban-led capitalist regime and occupying the country has nothing to do with democratic rights, women's equality, or the Afghan people's well–being. It is part of the imperialist rulers' "long war against terrorism" to assert their class interests worldwide. The invasion of Afghanistan served as a warning to other governments at odds with Washington to get in line or risk war. The U.S. rulers used the Afghan war to establish military bases there and across Central Asia. The current NATO occupation aims to consolidate a pro-imperialist regime in Kabul and reinforce imperialist domination in the region.

Socialists oppose the Taliban, which is a political—not primarily religious—force that represents part of the Afghan bourgeoisie. We explain, however, that the only road forward in Afghanistan is for workers and peasants in that nation to organize themselves and fight both the Taliban and the current U.S.-installed regime to establish a government that represents their interests. Getting the imperialist troops off their backs is essential to do this.